

Standard 7-6 The student will demonstrate an understanding of international developments in the post-World War II world, including the impact of the Cold War on the world.

7-6.1 Summarize the political and economic transformation of Western and Eastern Europe after World War II, including the significance of the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, the Warsaw Pact, and the European Economic Community (EEC).
(H, P, E, G)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught about the political and economic transformation of Western and Eastern Europe after World War II, including the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, the Warsaw Pact, and the European Economic Community (EEC).

In Global Studies, students will summarize the ideologies and global effects of Communism and democracy, including the effects of totalitarianism and Communism in China and the effects of Communism in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union (GS-6.1).

In US History, students will summarize the origins and course of the Cold War, including the containment policy, and the role of military alliances (USHC-9.2).

In US Government, students will compare the roles of international organizations in world affairs, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (USG-4.2).

It is essential for students to know how Western and Eastern Europe changed politically and economically after World War II. The Soviet Union wanted to spread communism, while the United States wanted to contain the spread of communism and promote democracy. The competing political ideologies of the United States and Soviet Union created a tension between the two countries which led to the Cold War, a war of words and actions that fortunately did not result in direct military action between the two countries. The Cold War had its beginnings in the plans the allied forces made for post-WWII at the Yalta Conference (February 1945). Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin decided to occupy a conquered Germany and its capital and divide it into four zones controlled by the Americans, British, French, and Russians. After the war's end, the Soviet Union established communist governments and refused to grant elections in Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Albania, and Hungary, areas the Russian army had liberated from German control at the end of the war and never relinquished, making them "satellite" nations of the USSR. These nations were called satellites because they were clustered around the Soviet Union and their political and economic policies orbited within Soviet influence and control. By 1949, the American, British, and French occupation zones in the western part of Germany joined together to form the democratically governed nation of West Germany. East Germany,

the Russian sector, had a communist government. Berlin, the former capital, was likewise partitioned, although it was located deep in East Germany. Because the United States was justifiably concerned about the spread of communism throughout Eastern Europe, President Harry Truman instituted a foreign policy based on the **containment** of communism by giving economic assistance to countries so they would not become communist. Called the Truman Doctrine, the strategy was first utilized to return economic stability and success to the region, thereby preventing communist supporters from offering communism as a viable economic alternative. An infusion of 400 million US dollars in assistance to the two countries proved to be very helpful. Countries in Western Europe countries also needed economic assistance after the war. The **Marshall Plan** provided the region with 12.5 billion dollars in reconstruction funds from Congress. Therefore the Marshall Plan was instrumental in helping to revive Western Europe after WWII while preventing the spread of communism in the area.

The largest problem of the Cold War was its constant potential to instantaneously turn “hot” in a showdown between the 2 superpowers that had the great probability of using a atomic/nuclear weapons with the capability of world-wide destruction. The first of these “showdowns” occurred in Berlin beginning in 1948. The partitioned German capital city became a political “hot spot” after the Soviets blocked access into West Berlin, the sector of the city occupied by Americans, British, and French, in order to drive Western influences from the city. The three Western Allies responded by airlifting supplies and food to the people of West Berlin for almost 11 months. The Soviets were then forced to lift the blockade. After the experience of the Berlin Blockade and the tension and success of the Berlin Airlift the United States decided it need to protect itself and other democratic nations. In 1949, the United States, Canada, and ten western European nations formed a military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**). The Soviet Union was threatened by the creation of NATO, and consequently built its own military alliance, the Warsaw Pact, which included Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania. Western European nations also wanted to cooperate with each other economically, so they created the **European Economic Community**, which promoted free trade among them.

It is not essential for students to know the specific dates of the Yalta Conference, the Berlin Airlift, the Truman Doctrine or the Marshall Plan, but students should have an understanding of their chronological sequence.

Assessment guidelines: Students are expected to **summarize** political and economic changes that occurred after World War II and during the Cold War. Appropriate assessment should require students to **explain** how the United States and the Soviet Union promoted their political ideologies and to **analyze** the impact of the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, the Warsaw Pact, and the European Economic Community.